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News Release

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NEW YORK APPLE PRODUCTION DOWN AND GRAPE PRODUCTION UP

Total apple production in New York is forecast at 1.25 billion pounds based on conditions as of August 1, according to King Whetstone, director of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, New York Field Office. This is 2 percent below the 1.27 billion pounds produced last year. Across the state, growers experienced excessive rain early in the spring which hampered pollination and disease control. Throughout July, the rain stopped and the heat increased. Some growers are concerned with the summer drought-like conditions.

The Lake Ontario fruit region reported a good year, but some of the large producers have concerns if the drought-like conditions continue throughout the summer. At this time, the growers are expecting a good size crop. In the Hudson Valley fruit region, growers had scattered hail storms in June and July and the heat continued throughout July. Growers in the Lake Champlain fruit region had minor hail damage, but are expecting a good crop overall.

The first U.S. apple production forecast for the 2011 crop year is 9.51 billion pounds, 2 percent above the 2010 crop.

Grape production in New York is expected to total 187 thousand tons, according to growers' reports. This represents a 6 percent increase from a year ago. Across the state, grape growers experienced a slightly better year than last year. There were no frost issues from the winter, but a very rainy May and June promoted conditions for disease. However, a hot, dry mid-June and July dried up the wet conditions and promoted rapid growth of vines. The Chautauqua-Lake Erie grape belt has reported an excellent growing year. Sizing may be an issue if the hot weather continues for too long this summer. Long Island growers have also had similar weather to the Lake Erie region. Disease issues seemed to be more prevalent in this region with more growers commenting about downy mildew problems. The overall view is that the region should have a good crop.

U.S. grape production is forecast at 7.19 million tons, down 3 percent from 2010. California leads the U.S. in grape production with 90 percent of the total. Washington and New York are the next largest producing States, with 4 percent and 3 percent, respectively. California's all grape forecast, at 6.45 million tons, is down 4 percent from the July forecast. Washington growers expect to harvest 275,000 tons, down 18 percent from a year ago.

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